

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 7, 2006 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

1. Call to Order

The East Greenwich School Committee met on Tuesday, February 7, 2006 in the East Greenwich High School Auditorium. The meeting was called to order by Chair Vincent Bradley at 7:05 p.m. Other members present were: Vice-Chair Merrill Friedemann, Paul Martin, Steve Gregson, Dr. Al Ross, William Day, and Sue Cienki, as well as Superintendent Charles Meyers, Director of Administration Maryanne Crawford, Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara,

2. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. State of District

a. Superintendent's Update-There were no Superintendent's Reports.

4. Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda

5. Recognitions

5.1 The following high school students were recognized as Scholastic Art Awards winners: Nick Gebhart, Hayoung Kim, Kristin Pallister, Victoria Devine, Cara Petit, Linnie Wray, Rachel Worthington, Ainsley Bonham and Leah Paolino.

5.2 The following Cole students were recognized as Scholastic Art Awards winners: Hanuel Kim, David Bui, Kurt Warren and Tyler Caron.

5.3 The following Cole students on the Robotics Team were recognized for winning second place in Robotics Programming and first place in Innovative Design: Alex Rickert, Brandon Gomeau, Oliver Ling, James Liu, Kevin Drumm, Brendan Larcom, Jon Bell, Chris Capuano, Michael Cozzo, and Dan Ratigan.

5.4 National School Counseling Week Proclamation – Mr. Meyers recognized the school counselors, and presented a proclamation to Lynn Hostetler, the Head of the Guidance Department.

Superintendent's Update: Facilities Committee Report

Mr. Jay Gowell, Chair of the Facilities Committee, stated that the committee met six times. He noted that \$1,358,000 of the bond issue is left. He noted that the immediate emphasis is on budgeting for capital improvement plan fully funded by the town. Mr. Gowell stated that there are many capital items needing improvement and this is because of deferred maintenance. He also stated that the committee's next order of business is looking at Cole, which could be a significant investment of resources. Mr. Gowell and his committee were thanked for all their work.

6. Approval of Minutes

January 10 & 17 Executive Sessions, and January 10 & 17 meetings, December 10 Retreat. On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Cienki, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 10 and 17 Executive Session. On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mr. Martin, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 10 and 17 meetings and the December 10 retreat.

7. New Business

7.1a Resignation

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson to approve the following items, 7.1.1 through 7.1.6. The motion passed unanimously.

7.1.1 Gertrude Toher, Mathematics at EG High School, effective 1-20-06

7.1b Appointments

7.1.2 Jeanne Ferguson, paraprofessional for the 3 day, 12 hour a week position at Meadowbrook, from February 1 until June 20, 2006

7.1.3 Martha Cruciani, school psychologist for the preschool team at Meadowbrook, replacing Robin Corsi, who is on parental leave until June 20, 2006.

7.1.4 Michaela Maw, preschool special educator for the preschool position at Meadowbrook from February 1 until June 20, 2006.

7.1.5 Brendan Carniaux, Band Advisor for East Greenwich High School

7.1.6 Leslie Lee, Elementary Orchestra Director

8. Home School Plan for grade three student and grade seven student.

On a motion made by Dr. Ross and seconded by Mr. Gregson, the

Committee voted unanimously to approve the two home school plans.

9. Presentation and Vote on Approval of Foreign Language Curriculum

Lois Chavez and Kristin Pontarelli presented the new Foreign Language Curriculum to the Committee through a power point presentation. They thanked Linda Newman, Educational Consultant for Curriculum for the East Greenwich Public Schools, for her leadership and coordination, and Margo Ucci, secretary in central office, for all her hard work. Mrs. Chavez noted that the language lab at the high school is outdated. Mrs. Friedemann feels that one lab is not sufficient and a wireless lab should be a priority in the budget. She asked about grants for the wireless lab. On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Dr. Ross, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the Foreign Language Curriculum.

10. Approval of Foreign Language Trips to Spain and France 2007

Mr. Meyers noted that the appropriate coverage was in place and an updated certificate of insurance will be requested next October. Mrs. Friedemann wanted the actual policy, not just the declarations page. Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the Foreign Language trips to France and Spain in 2007. Mr. Gregson asked if we had the roles and responsibilities of chaperones from the insurance company. Mr. Meyers responded that the school department has their draft and he is confident that we have the proper supervision by chaperones. Mr. Gregson wanted to know what adults are going to be doing on these trips. Mrs. Friedemann made a motion

to amend the pending motion to include having the insurance company sign off on the roles and responsibilities of chaperones. This was seconded by Mrs. Cienki. The vote on the amendment passed with Mr. Bradley voting no. The vote on the motion as amended passed with Mr. Bradley voting no. Mr. Bradley explained that he feels that traveling to foreign countries is dangerous because of large elements of unrest that are completely unpredictable.

11. Plan for Principal Militello's absence while he serves as NASSP President 2006-2007

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the plan for Mr. Militello's absence from Cole Middle School. Mr. Meyers stated that Mr. Militello will serve as President of the Rhode Island Association of Secondary School Principals for the next school year. He noted that Michael Zajac will serve as Associate Principal and Alexis Meyer will serve

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as Assistant Principal Intern. Dr. Ross noted that this is a creative way to solve problems and a win/win for East Greenwich in order to ensure we have good administrators. Mr. Militello stated that Michael Zajac is ready and has proven himself to be an exceptional leader. Mrs. Friedemann hopes that the plan is being approved, not the salaries. She asked for justification for any salary increases. Mr. Militello stated that his board of directors gives him flexibility as far as time away. He also noted that he will be a practicing principal, and will be in communication with Cole. The motion passed unanimously.

12. School Committee Discussion on Goals and Objectives for

Proposed Fiscal Year 2007

13. Discussion on FY 2007 Proposed Budget

Mrs. Friedemann stated that schools need to be maintained, and we need to provide the technology students need. She also noted that no contracts are coming up so money needs to be dedicated to buildings and technology. Mr. Gregson stated that we need to plan for an overall maintenance program, and he wants another \$100,000 in the maintenance budget. Mr. Nettik will present a technology plan at the February 14 meeting. Dr. Ross was disappointed that the position of Curriculum Director had to be cut since he feels the curriculum needs to be strengthened. He also feels the schools need to catch up with a preventative maintenance plan. Mr. Meyers feels that the \$125,000 for a Curriculum Director could be used for maintenance projects, and some may be allocated for a wireless lab at the high school. Mr. Robert Vespia questioned the need for a senior project coordinator. Mr. Meyers noted that this is a position that is state mandated. Mr. Vespia wants to see an actual need.

14. Discussion on scope and extent of legal representation

15. Request for proposals on scope and extent of legal representation including solicitation of bids and possible public advertisement for bids

16. Renewal of Legal Representation for the East Greenwich Public Schools with Oliverio and Marcaccio

Dr. Ross stated that because of the impact on contract negotiations, this item needs to be discussed in executive session. Mrs. Friedemann stated that the chair requested this item, not the School

Committee. Mr. Bradley stated that it is not legally necessary to bid. It was noted that Oliverio and Marcaccio are desirous of continuing their work for East Greenwich. Mrs. Friedemann feels that it is only fair to get bids out for legal services. Mrs. Friedemann made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to go out to bid for legal services. The motion passed with Mrs. Friedemann, Mr. Gregson, Dr. Ross and Mr. Day voting yes. Mr. Bradley, Mrs. Cienki and Mr. Martin voted no. Mr. Oliverio feels that his firm is at a disadvantage because their fee is out there. He noted that the benefit to the community is that the flat fees are capped at \$100,000.

17. School Committee Concerns

Mr. Gregson asked what was happening with getting benefit information to Mr. Cardello.

Mr. Bradley spoke about respect between School Committee members.

18. Public Comments for Items on the Agenda

Mrs. Christine Mattos wants a breakdown of administrative staffing at Cole as a narrative in the budget. She also asked for job descriptions

for central office staff and an updated budget to be made available for the February 14 meeting.

19. On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Cienki, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 9:19 p.m. under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) Special Education Litigation Issues, Principal Tara McAuliffe Contract Renewal,

Update on Personnel Issues, Gym Floor Litigation and Report from Girard Visconti, Esq.-Vote on Gym Floor Litigation Issues, School Committee discussion on Goals and Objectives for Labor Contract Negotiations. The motion passed unanimously.

In Open Session at 11:00 p.m. Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ross to seal the minutes of the February 7, 2006 Executive Session and to announce the vote on Principal Tara McAuliffe. On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee voted to give Mrs. McAuliffe a three year contract with changes suggested by the Superintendent. Mr. Bradley, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cienki, Mr. Day and Dr. Ross voted yes and Mr. Gregson and Mrs. Friedemann voted no. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani

Secretary